

My name is Jim Butler,

I am the President of Mosaic's Self Advocacy group the Dream Catchers.

The Dream Catchers have over 50 members and I am here to today to voice our concerns about the Governor's proposed budget for 2016 – 2017

As a group we are very concerned about the underfunding and cuts to the Department of Developmental Services. All of our members receive residential services which is funded by DDS.

For the Last 15 years I have been living at one of Mosaic's group home with the same housemates, Over the years we have become family. This proposed underfunding will directly impact us by having some of us move out to a less expensive program model.

The proposed budget cuts mean that others will not receive the kinds of services that I do, although there are thousands of people are on waiting lists who need support now not years from now.

The DDS budget has already seen huge reductions in recent years, which have been passed on to providers like Mosaic – this has forced providers to keep staff wages low, which have forced most of the staff that work for me to have two jobs to make end meet.

My staff help me with Day to living skills,

that could mean budgeting one day, grocery shopping the next and laundry on Saturday.

It always bothers me that my staff help me to grocery shop

but because of low wages may not

be able to shop for their own family.

On behalf of the Dream Catchers I ask the Appropriations Committee

to spare DDS from the proposed cuts and fund things at current levels.

Please remember Providers like Mosaic cannot afford any more budget cuts

in fact, they should be given more money for the true cost of services,  
so that staff, my staff can be paid fairly for the important supports that they provide.